

NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PROBLEM ATTACKED

City Divided Into 46 Districts So the Work Can Be Specialized.

HELP OF WOMEN SOUGHT

Aid Committee Now Busy at Task of Lightning Housewives' Burdens.

The Food Aid Committee, of which George W. Perkins is chairman, which was brought into existence by Mayor Michel to coordinate the various official and unofficial activities interested in the manifold food questions, is getting down to brass tacks in its plan to help housewives of the different sections solve their own problems.

The work of the committee has started off with much vigor along well defined lines and those who are prosecuting it are confident the things which will be accomplished during the summer will stand the city and the individual in good stead when the pinch—if there is a pinch—comes next winter. Just at present about the busiest place in this city is the office of the committee at 250 Madison avenue, and beyond all doubt one of the busiest women in town is Miss May Van Arsdale, director in charge of the committee's organizers, on whose shoulders rests the burden of the work in the different districts.

The city has been divided into forty-six districts, all so cut out that they include neighborhoods with problems peculiarly their own. Thus far there are thirty-five or forty organizers, but the remainder will be appointed as rapidly as the right kind of women are found for the places. There will be one organizer for each district.

Neighborhood Problems.

The Food Aid Committee proposes to make itself "a clearing house for the food problems of New York" (to quote Miss Van Arsdale) and its purpose right now is to find out what are the problems of the various neighborhoods. Later an effort will be made to show the housewives of the neighborhoods how they themselves can solve these problems.

The organizers are going into the neighborhoods, visiting the heads of settlement houses, play grounds, milk stations and other centers. They are finding out who are the influential people in the various sections. They are getting in touch with these people and are interesting them to become members of neighborhood committees. Some of these committees are now made up of ten, fifteen or more persons, and Miss Van Arsdale is anxious that each group shall consist of 150 at least. She says she would be glad if a thousand joined, going on the theory that the greater number who manifest interest in the committee's plan the greater the opportunity for accomplishing great things.

Want People to Talk.

"We want the people to talk to us. We want them to write to us. We are anxious to know what are their neighborhood problems. We will not ask them to solve these problems, nor attempt to solve them for them, until we know what they are. In my opinion, it is foolish to go into a community with any plan until you know what the community wants. We must know what problems are common to all the city and what are peculiar to the district. We will have to classify and sift this information."

"This is a big city movement. We have heard much of rural extension work, but little of city extension. New York city, I believe, is the first to get to work on city extension work. 'It is possible,' continued Miss Van Arsdale, 'that we may find that 500 or say 1,000 women on the East Side cannot feed their children because of prevailing high prices. Suppose 2,000 mothers should feel that they must go to somebody higher up because their conditions were intolerable. I believe if we get their sympathy and views we will be able to back up what they say and then we will have different results than if their appeal were made through self-appointed leaders or agitators.'

Feeling Way Gradually.

"We are feeling our way gradually, but I am confident we will be successful if the district organizers get all the agencies interested in this food problem to pull together. We must put just as much energy in the work on Riverside Drive or the West End section as will go into the work on the East Side. That is absolutely essential. You know New York apparently is divided into two sections: One where the problem is one of waste, and the other where there is nothing to waste."

Miss Van Arsdale says much depends on the makeup of the district committees which will consist of women and men of the neighborhood. She wants as members folks who have influence with their fellows and who possess the right kind of sympathy for them. The housewife with the real problem, she says, will make the ideal member. It will be through each committee that the problem or problems peculiar to each neighborhood will be worked out.

Miss Van Arsdale is in charge of the department of foods and cooking of Teachers College and has always been intensely interested in the work which she is now doing. Her assistant at the Food Aid Committee's headquarters is Miss Elizabeth Bohn.

The Board of Education has placed a number of cooking teachers at the disposal of the Food Aid Committee. Fifteen will start in Monday and fifteen others on August 15. Much valuable assistance has been rendered the committee by C. O. Gibney, head of the recreation bureau of the public schools, and by Miss Margaret Holt, assistant director of domestic science.

The committee has a large number of lecturers and food demonstrators who will be called upon as the work develops.

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CHANG-HSUN BEATEN ARMY SURRENDERS

Report of Defeat in Battle in Peking Confirmed by London.

AIRPLANES IN BATTLE

Bullets and Bombs Fall Within Walls of British Legation.

London, July 14.—Reports of the defeat of Gen. Chang-Hsun and his flight to the Dutch Legation are confirmed in an official statement given out here today containing advice from the British Charge d'Affaires at Peking. The announcement follows:

"On July 13 Chang-Hsun, having refused the terms offered by Gen. Tuan Chih-shui, the republican army decided to attack Chang-Hsun's troops and quarters. The diplomatic body was informed that measures would be taken to localize the fighting so far as possible and prevent the lives of foreigners from being endangered. The bombardment began at dawn on the 13th. The British Legation lay in the line of fire between the attacking army and Chang-Hsun's residence, but precautions were taken to explain its position to the staff of the republican army, and though the firing lasted from 4.30 A. M. until 3 P. M. and was at intervals very heavy and accompanied by bomb dropping from airplanes and some shells and many bullets fell within the walls of the legation there were no casualties there."

"At 11 o'clock Chang-Hsun took refuge in the residence of the Netherlands Minister, and his wife and family at the Austrian Legation. At the time of the report fighting had ceased and no loss of British life or property had been reported, though a few foreigners of other nationalities were said to have been wounded."

A despatch from Peking, dated Thursday, says that stray bullets flying over the legation section wounded three Americans while they were on the city wall. They are A. R. Zumbum of Cheyenne, Wyo.; R. A. White of Cedar Rapids, Ia., and Private Gault of the Marine Corps. In addition, one Japanese and one Italian were wounded. All the legation guards were stationed at strategic positions, and civilians residing outside of the city were being brought into the foreign quarter.

A Peking despatch dated Thursday addressed to the Chinese Legation says Chang-Hsun's entire force surrendered and that quiet had been restored at the capital. The Premier was expected to reach Peking on Friday.

A Shanghai despatch says news has been received from Min-yang that fighting started on July 4 at Cheng-tu (capital of the province of Szechuen, with a population of 300,000) between Szechuen and Kwei-chow troops. Fires were started in some parts of the city. The situation is critical. Most of the foreign residents of Cheng-tu have taken to the hill resorts.

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FINNS AGREE TO BIG LOAN.

Petrograd Delegation Arranges to Get 125,000,000 Marks.

HELSINKI, July 14.—As the result of negotiations with the Petrograd delegation headed by M. Tchobakov, president of the executive central committee of the Council of Workmen and Soldiers' Delegates, the Finnish Diet agreed to an immediate advance of 5,000,000 marks on account of a currency loan, this sum to be followed as soon as possible by an additional 110,000,000 marks. It was also agreed that the Finnish bank should furnish 45,000,000 marks for grain and flour purchased by Russia.

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